

# Victims' Voice

Newsletter For Those Impacted By Crime

#### From the Director of Victim Services



Ensuring victims are recognized, their voices heard, and our services to them are as accessible and user friendly as possible is a priority. I am so excited to share that the department as finally gone live with Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE). It has been a long time coming. We started on this project in 2017 and June 2, 2021, we officially went live.

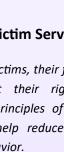
VINE has been providing victims and concerned citizens with the with the most reliable information for custody status

changes and criminal case information for more than 25 years. Millions of crime victims and concerned citizens across the United States rely on VINE for information and peace of mind.

Interested parties can opt-in by visiting vinelink.com and selecting "TN" from the drop down menu. You can search for an offender by name of offender ID, choose the "get notified "option to register. Once registered, you can receive electronic notification by text message, email, phone call, or TTY. Users can call 888-868-4631 to speak with a live operator 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To receive parole hearing and decision notifications, interested parties must contact Board of parole at 866-795-7467.

#### Tamíka Dobbins



#### June 2021

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#### **Victim Services Mission**

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

#### **Victim Services Provides:**

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

#### **Victim Services Activities:**

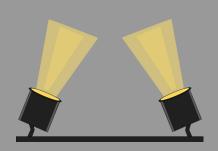
- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

### Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet





Blake Pollock's career began with the Tennessee Department of Correction as a Correction Officer at Riverbend Maximum Security Institute in Nashville, TN in 2004. During his 11 years at RMSI he was promoted to Corporal and then to Sergeant. In 2015, Mr. Pollock was promoted to Tennessee Department of Correction's Central Communications Center where he worked as an Intelligence Analyst. In 2018, Mr. Pollock was promoted to Tennessee Department of Correction's Compliance division as a Compliance Auditor for Institutions. He was subsequently promoted in July 2019 as the Statewide PREA Coordinator.





#### **Elder Abuse Awareness**

Elder abuse is a serious crime against some of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens, affecting at least 10 percent of older Americans every year.

Defined as an intentional or negligent act by any person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an older adult, elder abuse covers a wide range of crimes. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; neglect; and financial exploitation.

Victims of elder abuse are not just targeted by strangers. Family members, friends, and acquaintances can also take advantage of their relationship to defraud older Americans. An analysis supported by the National Institute of Justice found that 87.5 percent of elders who were victims of financial mistreatment by someone they knew did not report the crime to law enforcement. Most didn't report their family member or friend for not wanting the perpetrator to get in trouble and not wanting publicity.

Launched in March 2020, the National Elder Fraud Hotline helps combat fraud against older Americans. Managed by the Office for Victims of Crime, callers are assigned a case manager that assists them in reporting the crime and connecting them with necessary resources.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance-sponsored Legal Issues Related to Elder Abuse pocket guide provides law enforcement officers with brief explanations of legal concepts, documents, and tools that may be misused to commit elder abuse. The guide also details issues and actions that justice system professionals may consider if they suspect elder abuse has occurred.

Through the Elder Justice Initiative, the Department of Justice is committed to combatting all forms of elder abuse and financial exploitation through enforcement actions, training and resources, research, victim services, and public awareness.

If you or someone you know is a victim of elder fraud, we encourage you to call the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833–FRAUD–11 (833–372–8311).

The hotline is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time. Services are available for speakers of English, Spanish, and other languages.





### **Victim Services Monthly Statistics**

#### **Central Office Phone Calls**

#### **Central Office Mailed Notifications**

| Telephone Calls   | May | Notifications Mailed | May |
|---|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Phone calls Received/Returned                               | 106 | Registrations/Voice  | 119 |
| Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email) | 88  | Movement             | 102 |
| Harassment/Threats/No Contact                               | 0   | Advance Release      | 760 |
| Referrals   | 28  | Final Release *      | 23  |
| Release/Parole Inquiry                                      | 44  | Death                | 11  |
| Other   | 33  | Other                | 5   |



## Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report 06-02-2021 to 06-30-2021

| Agency                      | Month              | Email  | ТТҮ | SMS    | Phone  | InApp | Letter | Total   |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----|--------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| TN Department of Correction | June 2021          | 2,384. | 14. | 5,940. | 3,002. | 88.   | 1.     | 11,429. |
|                             | AGENCY TO-<br>TALS | 2,384. | 14. | 5,940. | 3,002. | 88.   | 1.     | 11,429. |
| OVERALI                     | LTOTALS            | 2,384. | 14. | 5,940. | 3,002. | 88.   | 1.     | 11,429. |

## New Registration Statistics By Delivery Method 06-02-2021 to 06-30-2021

| Agency                                     | Month              | Email  | ттү | SMS    | Phone  | InApp | Letter | Total  |
|--|--------------------|--------|-----|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| Tennessee De-<br>partment of<br>Correction | June 2021          | 1,972. | 29. | 4,403. | 2,157. | 139.  | 22.    | 8,722. |
|  | AGENCY TO-<br>TALS | 1,972. | 29. | 4,403. | 2,157. | 139.  | 22.    | 8,722. |
| OVERAL                                     | L TOTALS           | 1,972. | 29. | 4,403. | 2,157. | 139.  | 22.    | 8,722. |



HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE VICTIMS OF CRIME

## NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' SERVICE AWARDS

Submit Your Nominations by August 2, 2021

2022 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW)

**SAVE THE DATE** 

April 24-30, 2022

The weeklong initiative promotes victims' rights and honors crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CRIME WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

**Criminal Injuries Compensation: Corvel Corporation 866.960.6039** 

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